



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

# RENT AID



## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

*Scant fraud reported among U.S. rental assistance programs*

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaks regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance program in San Francisco on Aug. 10, 2021.

Associated Press  
Page 2

OUR *Guests* CLAIM  
WE SERVE *Authentic*  
PERUVIAN CUISINE.

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 Eagle Beach, Aruba Info: + 297 5925699  
reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com • Closed on Mondays



Craving  
a **Good**  
Steak?



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas,  
Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire...  
Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

*IT's Time for an extraordinary steak!*

Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677  
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm

**Fit2fly** COVID-19  
Testing Center

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!**

**NAAT molecular (PCR):  
Result in 30 minutes!**

**Antigen Test: \$50**  
PCR Test also available

**LABORATORIO  
DI SERVIZIO**

**MedCare Clinic**  
URGENT CARE

**Tel: (+297) 280-0630**  
info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

**Locations: The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM) Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

## Scant fraud reported among U.S. rental assistance programs

By **ADAM BEAM** and  
**MICHAEL CASEY**  
Associated Press  
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— After watching scammers make off with more than \$20 billion in fraudulent California unemployment benefits during the pandemic, state housing officials were wary of a repeat when the federal government poured money into the state and told them to use it to pay off people's unpaid rent.

But in the eight months since California's rental assistance program began, fraud has been virtually nonexistent. The Department of Housing and Community Development has identified 1,800 fraudulent rental assistance applications out of nearly 500,000 statewide — 0.0036% — and none was paid.

Geoff Ross, the agency's deputy director, said it was "mindful" of California's unemployment benefits debacle that has become the most expensive government fraud case in state history.

"All of those were detected pretty easily and early,"



**An applicant waits with paperwork at a rental assistance fair July 24, 2021, in Jackson, Miss. Housing officials in multiple states are reporting few fraudulent applications in their rental assistance programs.**

Associated Press

Ross said of the fraudulent rental assistance applications. "We learned a lot from previous programs." Congress approved trillions of dollars in aid during the pandemic — including more generous unemployment benefits and rental assistance — often leaving it up to state and local governments to get the money out the door.

For unemployment benefits, many states last year rushed to approve checks for millions of people who suddenly lost their jobs be-

cause of government shut-down orders. The frenzied approvals made it easy for criminals to file and collect on fraudulent claims in states large and small, even collecting benefits in the names of tens of thousands of state prison inmates.

Earlier this year, Congress approved \$46.5 billion in rental assistance, and most states are distributing the first tranche of \$25 billion. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, more than \$10 billion has gone out through Sept. 30, and

officials credit that with helping avert a wave of evictions.

It's been difficult to determine if scammers are targeting federal rental assistance money nationwide with the same gusto they had while going after expanded unemployment benefits. Many states, including Missouri, Texas, Louisiana and Rhode Island, won't say if they have had any fraud, claiming doing so would compromise their security.

The Treasury Department, which oversees compliance with federal spending programs, says it is monitoring various state programs for fraud but has nothing to report yet.

But among states that have disclosed information, there has been little fraud.

In Arizona, where a staggering 30% of unemployment benefits paid during the pandemic went to scammers, state officials have received nearly 8,300 rental assistance applications so far. A computer program they use to verify people's identities has stopped more than 9,900

people from filing potentially fraudulent applications. It's the same program many states adopted to stop fraud in their unemployment claims.

In New York, state officials say potentially fraudulent applications account for "less than a fraction of 1% of the total number of applications submitted," according to Anthony Farmer, director of public information for the New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

"While several instances of potential fraud have been referred to law enforcement for further investigation and action, and several other potential instances remain under review by OTDA and its vendor, there have been no final determinations of fraud made at this time," Farmer said in an email.

In Utah, only about 1% of applications have been fraudulent, "and an even smaller amount of those have been paid out," according to Christina Davis, communication director for the Utah Department of Workforce services. □



**Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm listens as President Joe Biden speaks during a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, in Washington.**

Associated Press

By **JOSH BOAK**  
Associated Press

The Biden administration is taking steps to help distrib-

## White House offering more aid for winter heat, utility bills

ute several billion dollars in aid for winter heating and utility bills, an unprecedented sum that comes largely from its \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.

The package provided an additional \$4.5 billion for the government's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which typically has funding of \$3 billion to \$4 billion annually. Aid for renters can also cover utility costs, while the money provided to state, local and tribal govern-

ments can help families that face high heating bills and are ineligible for other programs.

"It's another example of where the American Rescue Plan included extra precautions to ensure we would be prepared," said Gene Sperling, who is overseeing coronavirus relief for the White House. "These new programs and funding were designed to ensure that if the weather was colder or the prices were higher, we would have the

highest resources ever to help as many hard-pressed families as possible."

The White House held a call Thursday with representatives from governors' offices to discuss ways to distribute the funds and coordinate across programs. Speakers on the call will include Sperling, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and the governors of Connecticut, Maine, Michigan and Minnesota. □

## 2 Iranians charged with threatening U.S. voters in 2020

By ERIC TUCKER

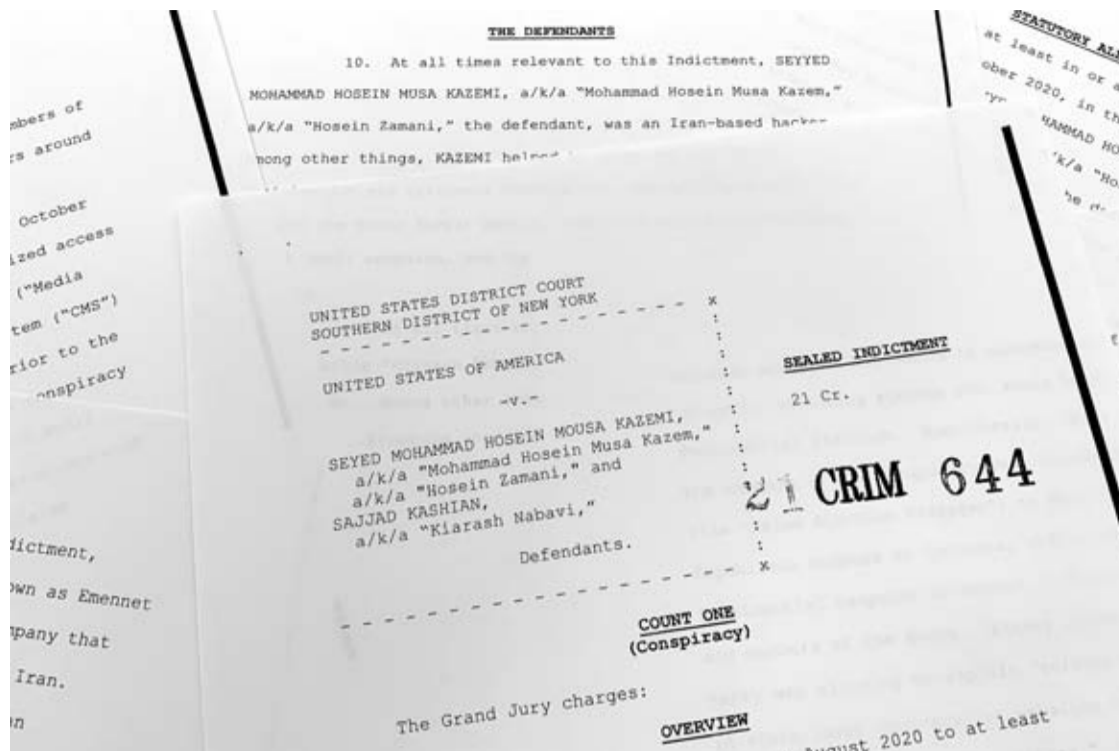
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Two suspected Iranian computer hackers have been charged in a broad campaign of election interference aimed at intimidating American voters during last year's presidential race and undermining confidence that the results of the contest could be trusted.

The activities, prosecutors say, exploited not only computer vulnerabilities but also existing social divisions to sow discord and confusion among voters. The Iranian cyber campaign included bogus emails that targeted Democratic and Republican voters with different messages, the distribution of a fabricated video that purported to show acts of election fraud and an unsuccessful effort the day after the election to gain access to an American media company's network.

The overall effort attracted publicity in the run-up to the November 2020 election, when law enforcement and intelligence officials held an unusual evening news conference to accuse Iran of orchestrating an email campaign aimed at intimidating Democratic voters in battleground states so they would vote for Trump.

The indictment makes clear that even as much of the public concern about foreign interference in last year's election centered on Russian efforts to dis-



The grand jury indictment against Iranian nationals Seyyed Mohammad Hosein Musa Kazemi and Sajjad Kashian is photographed Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.

age Trump's challenger, Joe Biden, Iranian hackers were engaged in a wide-ranging influence campaign of their own.

U.S. intelligence officials said in a March assessment that Iran's efforts were aimed at harming Trump's reelection bid, and probably authorized by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, but that there was no evidence that Tehran or any other foreign actor had done anything to change the vote totals.

The indictment, filed in federal court in Manhattan and unsealed Thursday, accuses Iranian nationals Seyyed Mohammad Hosein Musa Kazemi and Sajjad Kashian of helping carry out the scheme.

The Treasury Department also announced sanctions against the men, some of their colleagues and the company they worked for.

The defendants, described in the indictment as experienced hackers who worked as contractors for a cybersecurity firm, are not in custody and are believed to be in Iran still. But officials hope at minimum that the indictment and accompanying sanctions will restrict their ability to travel. Each faces a broad array of charges, including voter intimidation, transmission of interstate threats and computer crimes.

Asked Thursday whether the defendants' activities were endorsed by the Iranian government, a Justice

Department official who briefed reporters on a conference call noted that the indictment alleges that the company the men worked for — formerly known as Eleyanet Gostar — provided services to the government. But the indictment does not directly implicate the government because the Justice Department can rely only on unclassified, admissible evidence that it can bring to court, the official said.

Court documents allege vast efforts to spread disinformation about the presidential contest and to intimidate and pressure voters. Some of the activities persisted even after the election.

As part of the cyber cam-

aign, officials say, the hackers attempted in the weeks before the election to compromise voter websites in 11 states, and successfully downloaded voter information related to more than 100,000 people in one state.

While the defendants did not use that information to attempt to change vote totals, officials say, they created the appearance that the election results could not be trusted by leaving the false impression that it was possible to submit fraudulent ballots.

They also sent Americans what officials describe as carefully curated messages, specifically tailored to appeal to — and divide — members of both major political parties.

That included messages that purported to be from a far-right group, the Proud Boys, that threatened Democratic voters with physical harm if they didn't change their party affiliation and vote for Trump.

"You will vote for Trump on Election Day or we will come after you," the email said, according to prosecutors.

Though the messages pressured voters to support Trump, they may have been designed to actually harm his campaign by aligning him in the minds of voters with the Proud Boys after he was criticized for failing to unequivocally denounce the group during the first presidential debate. □

## Phone companies must allow texting new '988' suicide line

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

U.S. communications regulators will require that phone companies allow people to text as well as call a new "988" number for the suicide-prevention hotline. The Federal Communications Commission last summer voted to require phone companies support the 988 number for people to call to reach an existing suicide-prevention hotline. Recognizing that texting is critical to Ameri-

cans, particularly young people and those who are deaf, have hearing loss or speech disabilities, the commission on Thursday voted 4-0 to require a texting option as well.

"For millions of us, especially young people and those with disabilities — they are more likely to text than they are to call when they are in crisis," said FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel during the agency's meeting Thursday. "The bottom

line is it should not matter when you make a voice call or send a text message, because we should connect people in crisis to the resources they need, no matter how they communicate." Currently, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline uses a 10-digit number, 800-273-TALK (8255), which routes calls to about 170 crisis centers. Phone companies have until July 2022 to implement the 988 number for both calling and texting.

The FCC said Thursday that the country's largest cell-phone companies AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon already support calling 988. Suicide-prevention experts have said that the three-digit hotline could be a breakthrough that helps people in crisis. Suicide rates have largely been going up in the U.S. for the past two decades, although they dropped slightly last year, when nearly 45,000 people died by suicide.

"Texting to 988 is a huge step forward in improving how you address mental health," said Hannah Wesolowski, director of government relations for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She said that that demand for the hotline "is going to skyrocket" next year when the 988 system is fully in place and people actually know about it, and that resources are going to have to increase as well so that people's calls and texts are answered. □

# Legal pot growers frustrated by illegal operations in Oregon

By **ANDREW SELSKY**

**Associated Press**

**SALEM, Ore. (AP)** — Amanda Metzler, a licensed cannabis grower, has beefed up security around her property and no longer dares to go out alone after dark because of illegal marijuana farms in her region.

Elin Miller, a vineyard owner, said the illegal sites have lured away so many field workers that grape growers and wineries are suffering labor shortages, particularly at harvest time.

Jackson County Sheriff Nathan Sickler says the crime rate, associated with the thousands of illegal marijuana farms that have sprung up this year in southern Oregon, has gone through the roof.

"We've had stabbings, robberies, thefts, burglaries, homicides, sex crimes, motor vehicle accidents, DUIs, all related to the influx of the marijuana-cannabis industry in our valley," Sickler said. "It is certainly an issue we deal with on a daily basis here."

The three were among witnesses who testified Tuesday before a committee of the Oregon Legislature, in an effort to seek help in stemming the proliferation of illegal grow sites in southern Oregon.

The managers of the sites — which were brazenly erected last spring primarily



In this April 8, 2019, file photo, a jar of medical marijuana sits on the counter at a dispensary in Sherwood, Ore.

in Jackson and Josephine counties in the largely rural region near the California state line — have stolen water from rivers, creeks and aquifers during a severe drought and abused immigrant workers, officials have said.

Many illegal marijuana farms are operating under the guise of being legal hemp farms.

Steven Marks, director of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, said that tests conducted at some 400 self-proclaimed

hemp sites from July 28 to mid-September showed that most plants had higher amounts of THC, the component that gives cannabis its high, than is legally allowed for hemp.

"So the upshot is 54% of all the tests we successfully conducted were positive and presumptive for marijuana," Marks said.

Managers of 73 sites told state inspectors to go away, and barred access. Many sites are guarded by gunmen.

Sickler described "an ex-

plosion of growth" in marijuana farms.

"We don't have the resources in Jackson County to deal with something like that," Sickler told the House Interim Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity.

Rep. Pam Marsh, a Democrat from Ashland in Jackson County, agreed.

"I can tell you that on the ground, the ubiquitous presence of these structures, often with very little effort meant to shield them from the public view, has

been shocking," Marsh said.

There aren't enough inspectors to test for THC content at each site to determine which ones are legal and which are not, officials have said.

Police said they do not have the capacity to raid all the suspicious sites, with each raid requiring an investigation and search warrant.

"First and foremost, we need to allocate significant funding to support law enforcement and code compliance operations," Marsh told the committee. "Jackson County alone has estimated a cost of \$7.3 million a year to enable the county to adequately tackle illegal grows. Josephine County is likely to have a similar need."

Vineyards are also feeling the impact of the illegal pot farms, said Miller, chair of the Oregon Wine Council.

With tons of marijuana having been recently harvested and the illicit business largely conducted in cash, gunmen are now preying on the illegal farms and marijuana processing sites.

"Crews from eight different states have come to Jackson County to perform home invasion robberies of marijuana farms or individuals associated with marijuana industry with money," Sickler said. □

**Associated Press**

# Work starting on 1st commercial-scale U.S. offshore wind farm



Two of the offshore wind turbines have been constructed off the coast of Virginia Beach, Va., Monday, June 29, 2020.

**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland joined with Massachu-

setts Gov. Charlie Baker on Thursday to mark the groundbreaking of the

Vineyard Wind 1 project, the first commercial-scale offshore wind farm in the United States.

The project is the first of many that will contribute to President Joe Biden's goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030 and to Massachusetts' goal of 5.6 gigawatts by 2030, Haaland said at the event in the town of Barnstable on Cape Cod.

The first steps of construction will include laying down two transmission cables that will connect Vineyard Wind 1 to the mainland.

The farm will generate 800 megawatts of electricity

annually, enough to power more than 400,000 homes. It will be built by union labor and create hundreds of jobs, Haaland said.

"Vineyard Wind 1 represents a historic milestone for advancing our nation's clean energy production," Haaland said. "This project and others across the country will create robust and sustainable economies that lift up communities and support good-paying jobs, while also ensuring future generations have a livable planet."

In July, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-

ment approved the project to construct 62 wind turbines about 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and 35 miles from mainland Massachusetts.

The commercial fishing industry has pushed back against the wind farm.

In September, the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance — a coalition of commercial fishing groups — filed a legal challenge to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's approval of the Vineyard Wind 1 project with the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. □

# U.S. warns pilots of weapon fire as war nears Ethiopia capital

By CARA ANNA

Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — The United States is warning pilots that planes operating at one of Africa's busiest airports could be "directly or indirectly exposed to ground weapons fire and/or surface-to-air fire" as Ethiopia's war nears the capital, Addis Ababa.

The Federal Aviation Administration advisory issued Wednesday cites the "ongoing clashes" between Ethiopian forces and fighters from the northern Tigray region, which have killed thousands of people in a year of war.

The U.S. this week urged its citizens in Ethiopia to "leave now," saying there should be no expectation of an Afghanistan-style evacuation.

Diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting have met resistance, but Kenya's president told visiting U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday that Ethiopia's prime minister in a meeting on Sunday gave the impression he was ready to consider several proposals to ease tensions and reduce violence, a senior State Department official said.

Those include opening humanitarian access to Tigray and restoring government services to the region.



Planes sit on the tarmac at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Such steps, combined with a ceasefire agreement, could set the stage for more comprehensive peace talks, the U.S. official said.

Diplomatic efforts by an African Union envoy, former Nigerian president Olesgun Obasanjo, and U.S. envoy Jeffrey Feltman continue. Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Dina Muffi, told reporters that both are in Ethiopia but didn't give details.

The Addis Ababa international airport is the hub for the state-owned Ethiopian Airlines, a symbol of Ethiopia's former status as one

of the world's most rapidly growing economies before the war.

The airline in recent years became Africa's largest and best-managed carrier, turning Addis Ababa into the gateway to the continent. Addis Ababa is also the continent's diplomatic capital as home of the AU. The FAA advisory notes no reports of disruptions at Bole International Airport and "no indication of an intent to threaten civil aviation," but it says the risk to approaching and departing planes could increase if the Tigray fighters encircle the capital.

The Tigray fighters "likely possess a variety of anti-aircraft capable weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank weapons, low-caliber anti-aircraft artillery, and man-portable air-defense systems," or MANPADS, which could reach up to 25,000 feet above ground level, the FAA advisory says.

In an acknowledgment of Bole airport's importance for onward travel for the African continent and beyond, the U.K. Minister for Africa Vicky Ford last week told reporters that Britain now advises against all travel to Ethiopia apart

from the airport for departures and transfers.

The Tigray forces who had long dominated the national government before current Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office in 2018 have approached Addis Ababa in recent weeks and joined up with another armed group, the Oromo Liberation Army, with the aim of pressing Abiy to step aside.

The Tigray forces also say they are pressuring Ethiopia's government to lift a months-long blockade on the Tigray region, which includes an Ethiopian government restriction on flights over Tigray. No food, medicine or other humanitarian aid has entered Tigray, a region of some 6 million people, for more than a month since Ethiopia's military resumed airstrikes there for the first time since June.

Ethiopian Airlines seized the world's attention in 2019 when the crash of a Boeing 737 Max shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa killed 157 people.

That and the earlier crash of another brand-new 737 Max off the coast of Indonesia had far-reaching consequences for the aeronautics industry as it brought about the grounding of Boeing 737 Max jets until late last year. □

Associated Press

## Sudan's police chief denies role in killing of protesters

**CAIRO (AP)** — Sudan's police chief on Thursday defended his security forces, saying they use only legal means to contain anti-coup protests. The Sudanese have been taking to the streets in masses since last month's military takeover, which upended the country's fragile transition to democracy.

The remarks by Chief of Police Lt. General Khalid Mahdi Ibrahim came a day after doctors said at least 15 people were killed by live fire during demonstrations against the Oct. 25 coup — the highest daily count of people killed since the

takeover.

The United States expressed dismay over the protesters' deaths. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a Thursday news conference in Abuja, Nigeria, that the U.S. is "deeply concerned by the violence used by the Sudanese military against people engaged in peaceful protest."

Speaking to reporters in Khartoum, Ibrahim insisted that police are protecting civilians and primarily use tear gas to contain violence at the protests. He repeated claims that there have also been po-

lice casualties and promised investigations into any deaths, civilian or other.

Ibrahim's statements contradict accounts from those at the protests and doctors who have been treating the wounded. Protest leaders in Sudan have repeatedly called on demonstrators to abide by nonviolent tactics in their attempt to halt the coup.

Security forces, including police but also military, and also the country's paramilitary forces known as the Rapid Support Forces have faced off with protesters since the coup, trying to stop their marches.



Sudanese confront the police during a protest against the military coup that ousted government last month, in Khartoum, Sudan, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

Wednesday's fatalities occurred in mostly in Khartoum's district of Bahri, and the Sudanese capital's twin city of Omdurman, according to the Sudan

Doctors Committee. The deaths brought the overall death toll since the coup to at least 39. Hundreds have also been wounded, the committee says. □

# China coast guard uses water cannon against Philippine boats

By **JIM GOMEZ**

**Associated Press**

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** —

Chinese coast guard ships blocked and sprayed a powerful stream of water at two Philippine boats carrying supplies to troops at a disputed South China Sea shoal, prompting Manila to order Beijing's ships to back off and warn that its supply vessels are covered by a mutual defense treaty with the United States, Manila's top diplomat said Thursday. Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said no one was hurt in the incident on Tuesday, but the two supply ships had to abort their mission to provide food to Filipino forces occupying Second Thomas Shoal, which lies off western Palawan province in the Philippines' internationally recognized exclusive economic zone.

Locsin said in a tweet that the three Chinese coast guard ships' actions were illegal and urged them "to take heed and back off." It was the latest flare-up in the long-simmering territorial disputes in the strategic waterway, where China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims. China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and has transformed seven shoals into missile-protected island bases



**A dilapidated Philippine Navy ship LT 57 (Sierra Madre) with Philippine troops deployed on board is anchored off Second Thomas Shoal, locally known as Ayungin Shoal, on March 30, 2014, in the South China Sea.**

**Associated Press**

to cement its assertions, ratcheting up tensions and alarming rival claimants and Western governments led by the U.S.

The Philippine government conveyed to China "our outrage, condemnation and protest of the incident," Locsin said, adding that "this failure to exercise self-restraint threatens the special relationship between the Philippines and China" that President Rodrigo Duterte and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, worked to nurture. In Beijing, Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China's coast guard had upheld China's sovereignty after the Philippine ships entered Chinese waters at night without permission.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon told reporters in Manila that two Chinese coast guard ships blocked the two wooden-hulled supply vessels.

A third coast guard ship "water cannoned the two for one hour," he said, adding that the outrigger of one of the Philippine ships was displaced by the im-

pact.

A water cannon is a device on firetrucks that shoots high-velocity water for fire-fighting and crowd control but has also been installed on Chinese coast guard ships to drive away what China considers intruders in the waters it claims.

The Philippines plans to deploy coast guard and Bureau of Fisheries vessels instead of navy ships to back up its forces and enforce its fishing laws at Second Thomas Shoal, which Filipinos call Ayungin and China refers to as the Ren'ai reef,

Esperon said. The number of Chinese surveillance ships has increased in recent weeks in the far-flung shoal and also around Thitu, a larger Philippine-occupied island in the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea's most hotly contested area, he said.

Philippine forces won't be deterred from traveling again to the shoal following the incident, he said.

"We will continue the resupply and we do not have to ask the permission of anybody because that is within our territory," Esperon said. The Philippine military deliberately ran aground a World War II-era warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, at the submerged shoal in 1999 to fortify its claim and provide a shelter to a small contingent of Filipino marines.

The Sierra Madre is now effectively a rusty shipwreck but the Philippine military has not decommissioned it. That makes the ship an extension of the government and means any attack on the ship is tantamount to an assault against the Philippines.

In 2014, the Philippine military invited more than a dozen journalists, including from The Associated Press, on a resupply mission to the shoal in a bid to draw global attention to what Philippine officials have called China's bullying tactics. □



**The skyline is seen enveloped in toxic smog in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Air pollution remained extremely high in the Indian capital on Thursday, a day after authorities closed schools indefinitely and shut some

power stations to reduce smog that has blanketed the city for much of the month.

New Delhi's air quality remained "very poor," ac-

## New Delhi's air still 'very poor' despite emergency measures

ording to SAFAR, India's main environmental monitoring agency. The concentration of tiny airborne particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter — known as PM 2.5 — neared 300 micrograms per cubic meter in some parts of the city, it said.

The World Health Organization designates the maximum safe level as 25. The tiny particles can lodge in the lungs and other organs, causing long-term health damage.

New Delhi, a city of 20 million, is one of the world's most polluted cities. Air

quality often hits hazardous levels during the winter, when the burning of crop residue in neighboring states coincides with lower temperatures that trap smoke. The smoke travels to New Delhi, obscuring the sky.

Emergency measures went into effect on Wednesday in an attempt to stem the health crisis.

Schools were closed indefinitely and employees were asked to allow half of their staff to work from home for a week. Some coal-based power stations outside New Delhi were ordered to shut

down and construction activities were halted. The measures, however, are expected to have very little effect. Meanwhile, the New Delhi state government is weighing whether to lock down the capital after India's Supreme Court last week sought an "imminent and emergency" action plan to tackle the crisis. The PM 2.5 concentration has soared to nearly 15 times above the WHO's safe level on many days in November and forecasters warn the pollution is likely to get worse in the coming days. □

# New migrant caravan begins in southern Mexico

By EDGAR H. CLEMENTE

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — As Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador opens talks on immigration and other issues with his North American counterparts in Washington, a new migrant caravan walked out of the southern Mexican city of Tapachula Thursday morning.

The new group of migrants heading north served as a fresh reminder of the urgent need to address the region's migration, which López Obrador hopes to convey in his meeting with President Joe Biden.

About 2,000 mostly Central American and Haitian migrants make up the latest attempted caravan.

Alex Leyva of Honduras said he was attempting to travel north in a caravan for the second time. The first time he left with another caravan Oct. 23, but he got sick and had to drop out. Mexican immigration agents sent him back to Tapachula where he had



Migrants help fellow migrants onto the bed of a trailer in Jesus Carranza, in the Mexican state of Veracruz, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

already started the process of requesting asylum in Mexico.

"My country is in the worst economic, crime, hunger situation," Leyva said. "There are no studies, no education for the kids. That's why my wife and I

decided to try to achieve our objective" of getting a better life.

The earlier caravan that Leyva had travelled with was in southern Veracruz state, but had dwindled to several hundreds migrants, down from a high point of

some 4,000.

Luis García Villagran, of the Center for Human Dignity, said that the migrants are demanding documents that allow them to be in all of Mexico. The Mexican government had relied on a strategy of containing migrants in the southernmost part of the country

to alleviate pressure at the U.S. border.

But those states are the poorest and there is far more opportunity to find work in the northern states. García Villagran said that even the migrants who received humanitarian visas that should allow them to travel in Mexico were detained by immigration agents and sent back to Tapachula.

Migrants confined to Tapachula near the Guatemala border have grown increasingly frustrated with the slow processing of their asylum cases. They complain that they are unable to find work that would allow them to support their families.

The caravans began several years ago as a way for migrants who did not have the money to pay smugglers to take advantage of safety in numbers as they moved toward the U.S. border. However, more recently Guatemala and Mexico have become more aggressive in quickly dissolving the caravans with security forces. □

# Cuban FM tells AP that fizzled protest effort was U.S. failure

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cuba's top diplomat said Wednesday that the fizzled attempt by young activists to encourage anti-government protests this week was a failure in political communication by the organizers, who he again accused of being supported by U.S. interests.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez spoke two days after no Cubans turned out for demonstrations and a few hours after it was revealed that one of the main organizers, playwright Yúnior García, had gone to Spain. "It is clear that what I called a failed operation — a political communication operation organized and financed by the United States government with millionaire funds and the use of internal agents — was an absolute failure," Rodríguez said in an inter-



Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

view with The Associated Press.

Organizers on Monday complained that they had been kept from leaving their homes by supporters of Cuba's Communist government or by threats from police to be arrested if they took to the streets.

"I wish they would allow Americans their freedom to

travel and that they could come to Cuba and see the reality first hand and discover the deception to which they are frequently subjected, with the aim of sustaining an obsolete, genocidal policy that violates human rights and international law and causes suffering among the Cuban people," he said. □

**Pinchos Grill & Bar**

Open: Daily  
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm  
Tel.: 583-2666  
Website: www.pinchosaruba.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

**THE WEST DECK**  
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner  
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm  
Tel.: 587-2667  
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

Travellers' Choice 2020



Like nomads travel from place to place to find fresh pasture for their livestock, the Nataf family –father Victor with sons David and Gregory - faithfully followed their nose for good food. As young boys, they indulged in their grandparent's culinary joie-de-vivre in the South of France. Ticked by the palette of excellent dishes prepared in their mid-seventies' restaurant in the Alps of France and filled with exquisite taste of their other restaurants in the beautiful island of Porquerolles near St Tropez that made it to a ranking of 13/20 in the Gault Millau restaurant grading. To the Natafs, food is a bohemian experience\_ unconventional, eclectic and off the beaten track. Welcome to Bohemian Aruba!

A Grande entrée through a huge, wooden, Moroccan-style door takes you into a foodies Garden of Eden. Big trees stand tall and proudly, lit with hanging lanterns creating a green and romantic lush paradise. There's a playful setting of different-styled tables, including seating under a Colombian Rattan tipi tent, complete the feel of let go alias laissez-faire. The cool bar blinks to New York loft

## Bohemian Restaurant & Bar, The Story: French Nomads in Culinary Avant-Garde

style, think industrial bold. Waiters with hip suspenders and berets add a hint of French flair while lounge music fills the air. The décor is designed by David himself.

### David Nataf - Owner

"Thoughts of finger licking dishes fill my mind thinking of my youth. The smell of fresh-baked croissants and chocolate bread hand made by my uncle's brother in law's father "the baker". The restaurant's kitchen fridge stuffed with the most exquisite dishes that my brother and I consumed secretly after a night out to the frustration of the chef. We were young boys eating away the night with foie gras and loup de mer local branzino."

Tongue melting fondue and raclette, wood oven pizzas with fresh Emmentaler cheese and hand-picked champignons founded his foodie character. Add this to the time he spent at the grandparents' house in the vine-



yards with fruits, veggies, poultry, and game within Spanish hand's reach. What was missing was bought at the weekly farmers market. "I grew up with the farm-to-table concept."

### Le Magic

The family magic is translated through David into Bohemian. Starters like Vitello Tonnato, le Ceviche, homemade Foie Gras Terrine or Escargots "A la Bourguignonne" tickle your taste buds. For entrees Whole Shrimps Flambe with Cognac, Grilled 10oz Angus Rib Eye Steak "Maître d'Hôtel" or Braised Lamb Shank ignite passion in your soul. Spicy Moroccan Mahi-Mahi Kebab with chickpea hummus and ratatouille crumble, Paella made with their own fish broth filled with chicken seafood and chorizo are other culinary delights but there is much more. Wines are imported directly from

France regions, as is the champagne. Italian, Spanish, American and Australian choices complete the list. Raving reviews on a continuous basis prove that Bohemian has got it! Every Wednesday there is Live Flamenco with Angela Croes, on Thursdays you will enjoy the beautiful live sounds of Angela's violin and on Friday's and Saturday's go with the beat of electro lounge. Live salsa music can be enjoyed on Sunday's.

"Join our gypsy experience, travel with taste"

For reservations call +297 280 8448 or mail reservations@bohemianaruba.com or book through the website bohemianaruba.com.□



MOVE IN READY!!



HARBOUR HOUSE

Aruba

THE *NEW*

DOWNTOWN LIVING

With the Most Spectacular View

Don't Miss Out 85% Already Sold!!

Visit us and check it out for yourself

(+297) 594 6395

Weststraat 2 | O'Stad, Aruba | sales@harbourhousearuba.com

WWW.HARBOURHOUSEARUBA.COM



WIN \$10 UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY THE DAY YOU JOIN THE CLUB!

50/30  
Friday!

We're giving away  
\$50 Free Slot Play  
to lucky slot and table  
game players every  
30 minutes from  
7pm to Midnight!

THE SHOPS  
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,  
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar  
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café  
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood | Subway

Alhambra  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 2am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Stars of the day:

Jennyraine Maduro

Don't try to 'Fit in'. Stand out!

sponsored by:



Jennyraine is 14 years old and is in the 2nd grade of Colegio Arubano in Oranjestad. Despite her hobbies being modelling and dancing she also practices Taekwondo and loves it. Jennyraine is a true example of how a girl can be beautiful and glamorous and yet strong!

Jennyraine participated in many beauty pageants and has conquered many titles such as; 2012 Little princess Aruba, 2013 Baby beauty world international (Dominican Republic), 2015 Little Miss Aruba, 2016 Mini model Aruba and in 2016 she became first finalist of the world. In 2018 she also represented The Chaz modeling & talent school in the Cultural Jewel pageant and won several titles such as Folklore jewel, Photogenic and National costume. Jennyraine started modelling when she was only 5 years old and also managed to win several prizes at the Best talent show



throughout the years.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to continue in the world of Fashion. I love watching fashion shows and trends of the world. Maybe I can also become a dance instructor, so definitely something in this area.

What do you like about yourself?

I like that I am being myself all the time. I express myself in the way I dress, my hair or through my accessories without worrying to 'Fit In'. I focus on feeling happy with myself.

What do you do when you feel sad?

I try to reflect on what made

me sad. I put on some music. I dance or even dress up just to make myself feel better.

Who is your best friend and why?

My best friend is my cousin, because since little we have been growing up more like sister and also Kiana is my best friend because we are very alike in many things.

What is your message to all the children of Aruba?

Follow your passion. Give your utmost at school and be open to learn new things. Everything has a negative side to it, but try to focus on the positive always

Children's day celebrations on Aruba

Friday, November 19

Community Center Playa Pabow (Oranjestad)  
'From Children to Children' show  
Waterslide, trampoline, dinojump, face painting, Dance Show  
From 3pm to 8pm.  
Entrance is Free.

Entrance is Free.

Saturday November 20

Children's Club Savaneta  
From 3pm-6pm  
Lots of fun activities for the whole family  
Dinojump, watergames, facepainting  
Entrance is FREE

Saturday, November 20

Hunga Teca- 'We are all talented'  
Paint your own tote page  
From: 9am-11am  
Located at the YMCA building in San Nicolas

Sunday November 21

Back on Stage- Talent show By the Chaz Modeling and Talent School  
At Renaissance Convention Center  
From 5:30pm

International Rights of Children

ORANJESTAD - November marks the start of National Children's Month, as declared by the Council of Welfare for Children (CWC). This month-long event aims to promote and spread awareness on the rights of children, considering the political and social climate they live in. In light of the National Children's Month, below are 4 rights of the child—and what adults can do to uphold them.

- Every child has the right to be born well.
- Every child has the right to a wholesome family life.
- Every child has the right to be raised well and become contributing members of society.
- Every child has the right to basic needs.
- Every child has the right to access what they need to have a good life.
- Every child has the right to education.
- Every child has the right to play and enjoy their youth.
- Every child has the right to be protected from danger.
- Every child has the right to live in a productive environment.
- Every child has the right to be cared for in the absence of their parent or guardian.
- Every child has the right to good governance.
- Every child has the right to freedom and peace. □



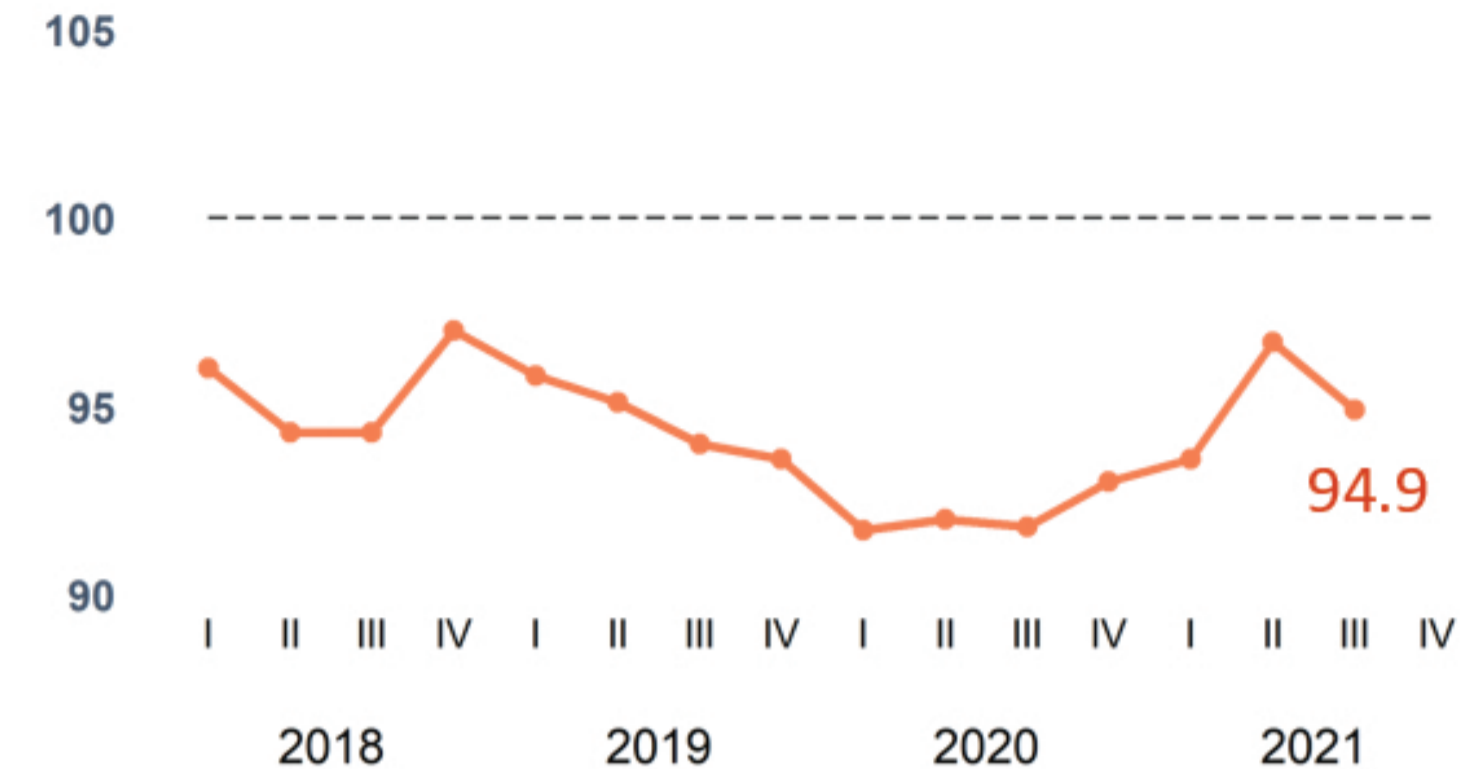
# Consumer confidence more pessimistic in the third quarter of 2021

## Results for the third quarter of 2021

**ORANJESTAD** – After a steady improvement, albeit still negative, consumer sentiments turned more pessimistic again as the consumer confidence index fell by 1.8 index points to 94.9 in the third quarter of 2021.

Despite the rebound in tourism arrivals and economic recovery, by the end of the third quarter, top of mind consumer concerns were higher prices, as 95 percent of those surveyed expected that prices would increase during the coming 6 months (Q2-2021: 86 percent), while 66 percent indicated that they were concerned about their personal health (Q2-2021: 43 percent) possibly due to the Delta COVID-19 virus. Noteworthy is that only 26 percent of respondents thought that economic conditions would improve, i.e., 23 percentage points less compared to previous quarter (Q2-2021: 49 percent). However, just 15 percent of respondents expected that the financial position of the government would be better; 11 percentage points less compared to the previous quarter (Q2-2021: 26 percent).

In the third quarter of 2021, both the present situation



and the future expectation index fell, i.e., by, respectively, 1.7 index points to 95.0, and 4.2 index points to 97.1, reflecting increased pessimistic expectations. More than half of those surveyed expected the Aruban economy to take an additional 2 years to fully recover from the COVID-19 crisis (Q2-2021: 50 percent). In the third quarter of 2021, 67 percent reported that buying a car was not suitable (Q2-2021: 67 percent), 65 percent indicated that taking out a loan was not

appropriate (Q2-2021: 62 percent), whereas 61 percent reported that taking out a mortgage was unsuitable (Q2-2021: 57 percent). About 56 percent stated that going on vacation was not appropriate (Q2-2021: 50 percent). Consequently, the consumer purchasing habit index stood at 94.1 in the third quarter.

More information on the Consumer Confidence survey is available on CBA's website [www.cbaruba.org](http://www.cbaruba.org). □



## Thank you Christopher Plasket!



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently, **Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor one of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.**

This time was the turn of Mr. Christopher Plasket from USA to receive his well-deserved recognition for coming to the island for

over 20 years! This wonderful and thoughtful man stated that he loves the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to him.

The ceremony took place at Divi Village. Richardson presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to the honoree, handed over some presents and also thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination and as his home-away-from-home. □

# CVS Health to close hundreds of drugstores over next 3 years

By **TOM MURPHY**  
AP Health Writer

CVS Health will close hundreds of drugstores over the next three years, as the health care giant adjusts to changing customer needs and converts to new store formats. The company said Thursday that it will close about 300 stores a year for the next three years, nearly a tenth of its roughly 10,000 retail locations as it reduces store count density in some places.

CVS said it has been evaluating population changes, customer buying patterns and future health needs to "ensure it has the right kinds of stores in the right locations." The company released no details Thursday on where the closings will occur. It did say they would start next spring.

Major drugstore chains routinely close underperforming stores or shutter locations for other business needs. CVS rival Walgreens, for instance, has closed several stores in San Francisco since 2019 due partly to problems with organized retail theft.

The explosive growth of online shopping has blunted the need for CVS and Walgreens to operate a vast network of drugstores that are just a few minutes' drive from most American



Vehicles are parked in front of a CVS Pharmacy in Mount Lebanon, Pa., on Monday May 3, 2021. Associated Press

homes.

CVS Health also has neglected its retail business and pushed some of its locations "into the downward spiral of irrelevance," GlobalData Managing Director Neil Saunders said in an email.

"Too many stores are stuck in the past with bad lighting, depressing interiors, messy merchandising, and a weak assortment of products," Saunders said in an email. "They are not destinations or places where people go out of anything other than necessity."

CVS Health said Thursday its stores will be grouped into three models.

Some will be traditional pharmacies that offer retail products as well as some health care services. Others will be dedicated to customer primary care, and the company will break out an enhanced version of its "HealthHUB" locations.

The company started introducing those stores a few years ago. The stores are geared toward helping customers monitor chronic conditions like diabetes and stay on top of their

health and include health care workers like dietitians as well as community rooms for things like yoga classes. Drugstores have been re-designing their locations as they try to become known as more than just places to pick up prescriptions and cough syrup. They have become a key source of COVID-19 vaccines as well as annual flu shots.

The companies have dealt with staffing issues as they widen their focus. They've raised starting pay and hired thousands of additional workers for their

stores.

But customers in markets like Kansas City and Indianapolis have complained recently to local newspapers about long waits or problems getting vaccinations at some Walgreens stores because of closed pharmacies.

A Walgreens spokesman said the company is always reviewing staffing levels and trying to minimize disruption to customers when a staffing shortages affect stores.

CVS Health said Thursday that it expects to take an impairment charge of between \$1 billion and \$1.2 billion in the fourth quarter for the closures. That charge won't affect the company's 2021 adjusted earnings forecast, which it raised earlier this month.

The company also said it will have an immaterial impact on adjusted earnings per share next year.

Aside from operating drugstores, CVS Health also sells health insurance and runs prescription drug plans for big clients like insurers and employers.

Shares of Woonsocket, Rhode Island-based CVS Health Corp. rose more than 2% to \$95.15 Thursday afternoon while broader trading indexes were nearly flat. □

# Under pressure, Apple allows self-repairs to iPhones, Macs

By **MATT O'BRIEN**  
AP Technology Writer

Apple is letting some iPhone users fix their own phones, a sharp turnaround for a company that has long prohibited anyone but company-approved technicians from fiddling with its proprietary parts and software.

The company said Wednesday that it will enable users of two of the newest iPhone models and eventually some Mac computers to get access to genuine Apple parts and tools for consumer repairs.

The shift reflects a strengthening "right to repair" movement embraced by President Joe Biden and affecting everything from smartphones to cars and

tractors. It's a reaction to the infusion of software into more everyday products and the practices of manufacturers who have increasingly made those products difficult and expensive to repair.

Apple is launching an online store for self-service repairs early next year that it says will have more than 200 individual parts and tools for making the most common repairs on the iPhone 12 or iPhone 13. It will initially be focused on do-it-yourself fixes to screens, batteries and displays, which Apple previously resisted and cited concerns about security and safety, such as faulty battery replacements that can damage a device.

Apple's action is welcome

news for consumers and a sign that similar standards should apply to other electronics, said Maureen Mahoney, a senior policy analyst at Consumer Reports.

"If you buy a product, you should be able to fix it," she said. Otherwise "consumers have to either rely on the manufacturers' authorized repairer or they have to buy a new one."

The Federal Trade Commission, the Biden administration and state legislatures have been eyeing regulatory changes that would make it easier for Americans to repair their broken devices.

Regulators have expressed concerns about restrictions that steer consumers into manufacturers' and sell-



A person uses an iPhone on Oct. 8, 2019 in New York.

Associated Press

ers' repair networks, adding costs to consumers and shutting out independent repair shops from business opportunities. They've also said those repair restrictions often fall heavily on minority and low-income

consumers. An FTC report to Congress in May noted that many Black-owned small businesses make equipment repairs, and repair shops often are owned by entrepreneurs from poor communities. □

**CROSSWORD**

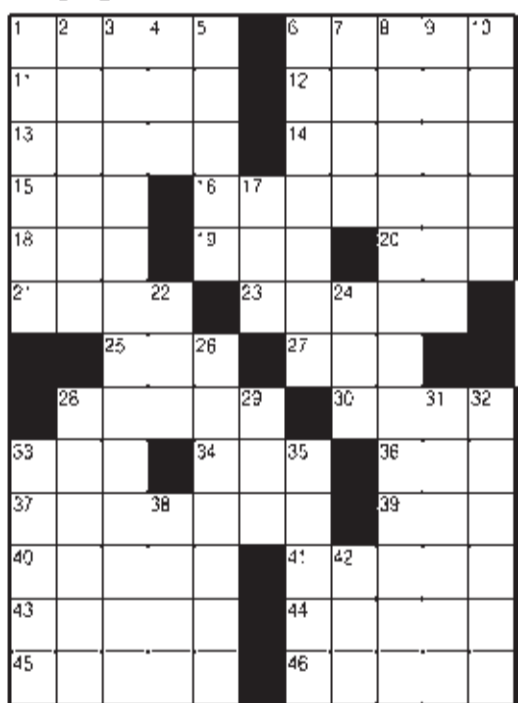
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 43 Bert's chum  
 1 Much of a chess set  
 6 Laughs heartily  
 11 Merman of musicals  
 12 Improvised  
 13 "Keen!"  
 14 Mother of Harry and William  
 15 Contrived  
 16 Gardener, at times  
 18 Cigar bit  
 19 Was inactive  
 20 Parched  
 21 Book part  
 23 Lushes  
 25 Kilmer of "The Doors"  
 27 — chi  
 28 Ibis's cousin  
 30 Office head  
 33 Pronoun for Miss Piggy  
 34 Oolong or pekoe  
 36 Humorist  
 37 Uncertain  
 39 Depression, e.g.  
 40 Planet circlers  
 41 Cake unit



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN** 8 Buyer's question  
 9 Antisocial sorts  
 10 Like horror movies  
 17 Judge's concern  
 22 Remote  
 24 Catch  
 26 Water flowers  
 28 Writer Balzac  
 29 S. Dak. neighbor  
 31 Ambulance sounds  
 32 Icy looks  
 33 Acted out  
 35 One of the Titans  
 38 "Consider the matter handled"  
 42 Had a nosh



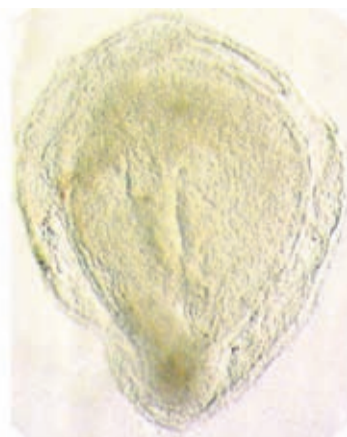
A XYDLB AAXR  
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-19 **CRYPTOQUOTE**  
 J Q G J I Q V P I I W X X Q J K C G T D  
 P U Q W E T X R E G D Q D Q W U P I C P S  
 C G T K Q I I K R Q E O Q B Y W E P B  
 S D W B A I P B I W P U P K S P D I K  
 — U W M P U R X G E P B I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOUR THEORY IS CRAZY, BUT IT'S NOT CRAZY ENOUGH TO BE TRUE. — NIELS BOHR

**New research offers glimpse into early human development**



Research released Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021 in the journal Nature provides a rare glimpse of an early stage of human development.

Associated Press

By LAURA UNGAR  
 AP Science Writer

Scientists have been able to get a rare glimpse into a crucial, early stage of human development by analyzing an embryo in its third week after fertilization — a moment in time that has been difficult to study because of both practical and ethical considerations. European researchers looked at a single embryo that was 16 to 19 days old, donated by a woman who ended her pregnancy. Until now, experts said, researchers have lacked a full understanding of this stage of development because human embryos at this stage are difficult to obtain. Most women don't yet know they're pregnant by this point and decades-old global guidelines have until recently prohibited growing human embryos in a lab beyond 14 days. The study, published online Wednesday in the journal Nature, looked at "gastrulation," which begins about 14 days after fertilization, when the embryo is still about the size of a poppy seed, and lasts a little more than a week. It's "a process by which you have this kind of explosion

of cell diversity," said lead investigator Shankar Srinivas, an expert in developmental biology at the University of Oxford, who worked with colleagues in the United Kingdom and Germany on the research. "It's during gastrulation that the different cells emerge, but they also start to be positioned in different places in forming the body so that they can carry out their functions and form the correct organs." For decades, the so-called "14-day rule" on growing embryos in the lab has guided researchers, with some places, including the United Kingdom, writing it into law. Others, including the United States, have accepted it as a standard guiding scientists and regulators. Earlier this year, the International Society for Stem Cell Research recommended relaxing the rule and allowing researchers to grow embryos past two weeks under limited circumstances and after a tough review process. But the rule remains law in the UK. This research was not subject to the law because the embryo wasn't grown in a lab. But it is an example

of the types of things scientists expect to learn more about if rules are relaxed. Researchers found various types of cells, including red blood cells and "primordial germ cells" that give rise to egg or sperm cells. But they didn't see neurons, Srinivas said, meaning embryos aren't equipped at this stage to sense their environment.

Oxford University officials said this stage of development has never been fully mapped out in humans before. The authors said they hope their work not only sheds light on this stage of development but also helps scientists learn from nature about how to make stem cells into particular types of cells that can be used to help heal damage or disease. Robin Lovell-Badge, a stem cell expert at London's Francis Crick Institute who chaired the group behind the guidelines, said being able to culture human embryos beyond 14 days "would be incredibly important to understand not just how we develop normally but how things go wrong."

It's very common for embryos to fail during gastrulation or shortly afterwards, he said. "If things go even slightly wrong, you end up with congenital abnormalities, or the embryo miscarries."

Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University, said "those of us who are morally conservative" always thought the 14-day rule was somewhat arbitrary, "but at least it was some recognition of the humanness of the embryo."

With the new recommendation, there will be more research on older embryos, he said. "Part of what science does is to always try to go forward and learn things that are new. And that continues to be a pressure. But the mere fact that we can do something is not sufficient to say that we ought to do it." □

Make your wish come true  
 +297 565 9535  
**Honey Dolls**  
 Professional Secret affairs Couple services  
 Full massage We deliver & pick up 24/7 Service  
 Call us well find the right girl for you  
 www.pleasureinaruba.com

# Independent websites team up to boost rural journalism

By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Several independent websites are joining forces to create a network for news about rural America, hoping to fill a void created in areas hit hard by the shrinking media industry of the past two decades.

The Rural News Network will begin early next year with collaborations on the economic problems of indigenous communities, and water and equity issues in the western U.S.

The network is being organized by the Institute for Nonprofit News, an organization that represents some 350 independent news sites across the country. Members range from well-known investigative sites like ProPublica and the Center for Public Integrity to some that focus on particular communities or neighborhoods.

More than 60 sites cover rural issues or specific rural areas. The institute has seen how many of them are covering similar issues, and thought that by working together, they could produce more powerful, impactful journalism, said Sue Cross, INN executive director and CEO.

Because they are wired into their communities and issues, these member news sites have an expertise that outsiders usually can't match, said Bridget Thoreson, INN's collaborations editor.

"This type of work is the antidote to parachute journalism," Thoreson said.

The Daily Yonder, a Kentucky-based site that covers rural news from a national perspective, will run the Rural News Network together with Investigate Midwest, a site that focuses primarily on agricultural issues and is based in Champaign, Illinois.

There's no Rural News Network website, although that is under consideration. The 60-plus members will use the work on their individual sites, and INN will link to it on its own.

Tim Marema, editor of The Daily Yonder, is looking for-



## Institute for Nonprofit News

This image shows the logo for the Institute for Nonprofit News which is establishing The Rural News Network for news about rural America.

ward to the extra hands that collaborations can bring.

"We're a mission-driven organization," he said. "If you could make a profit doing this, somebody else would have been doing this a long time ago."

Vast swaths of rural America have become news "deserts" with the economic failure of many local newspapers, and some of INN's members have sprung to life in response to this. Broadband access in rural America, which is expected to be boosted by the recently-passed federal infrastructure legislation, is both an issue for these sites to cover as it rolls out, and an opportunity to increase their visibility.

The pandemic's impact on rural health care and the economy, along with housing, have been issues that many of the independent sites in the network have been following, Marema said. Pandemic work-at-

home policies have led to a migration to rural areas so that "anyplace with beautiful scenery, house sales have gone way up," he said.

INN helps direct foundation funding to many of its members. A \$114,000 grant from the Walton Family Foundation is being directed to the indigenous project, while the California-based Water Foundation is providing a \$30,000 grant for the water and equity reporting.

INN is in its 12th year, and has seen a rapid increase in its membership, Cross said.

"We don't have an editing desk," she said. "But we're in a good position to organize collaborations."

Many of the independent websites have agreements with more established publications to distribute some of their work. High profile projects involving many journalists should be of great interest to these partners, Cross said. □

Associated Press

### ARUBA CLEAN



### IS MORE DUSHI



#### Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

#### Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

#### Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)  
Richard Brooks

#### Sales

Linda Reijnders  
Sulaika Croes

#### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

#### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

#### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

#### Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



### HEALTH

#### DOCTOR ON DUTY

##### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

##### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

#### PHARMACY ON DUTY

##### Oranjestad:

Paradera Tel. 588 6638

##### San Nicolas:

San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

#### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

#### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

#### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

#### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

#### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

#### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



facebook.com/arubatoday/

## 'The Power of the Dog' is a sublime gothic Western

By **JAKE COYLE**  
AP Film Writer

Tracking shots of a solitary figure striding across a Western plain, seen from within the darkened interiors of a home, bookend Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog." As the man walks, with wrinkled foothills behind him, the camera glides through the house. He goes into and out of view with each window.

The man is Phil Burbank (Benedict Cumberbatch), a rough-hewn Montana rancher with a menacing arrogance and a cocky, upright posture. The first time we see him this way, through the windows, it's an early signal that "The Power of the Dog" will pulsate with friction between within and without, that its masterful vision of the West will play out in a juxtaposition of rugged exteriors and murkier, more mysterious interiors.

"The Power of the Dog" is Campion's first film since her luminous 2009 John Keats drama "Bright Star"; in the interim she made the series "Top of the Lake," the vivid New Zealand mystery. Even without stepping on a film set in 12 years, though, appreciation for Campion has grown. Her films, including her 1993 masterwork "The Piano," have only gained admirers for the way they capture assertive inner lives piercing social structures and male hegemony. In



This image released by Netflix shows Benedict Cumberbatch in a scene from "The Power of the Dog."

Campion's formally composed films, lyricism claws its way through.

Adapted by Campion from Thomas Savage's 1967 novel, "The Power of the Dog" is less a return to form for Campion than a big-screen reminder of her virtuosity. The film, which Netflix opened in theaters Wednesday, isn't the Western you might think it is — though it does reside on the frontier. (Campion shot New Zealand for 1920s Montana, and its foreign, craggy mountain contours only enhance the feeling that this is not your traditional Old West.) There is Jonny Greenwood's disquieting score, for starters. And the foreboding, oversized ranch house, a hulking wooden pile on

dry grasslands, is also a hint that something more gothic is at play here.

There lives Phil and brother George (Jesse Plemons), a study in opposites. George is finely dressed, humble and decorous; Phil, while a studied intellect, seems to never take off his chaps. He revels in the outdoor life of the range. "I stink, and I like it," he says. Phil is confident he holds a greater understanding of farm life, masculinity and something more existential. He sees something in the folds of the looming mountain range that his men struggle to identify. One asks if there's something there. "Not if you can't see it, there ain't," Phil replies.

But just what Phil can and can't see is at the heart of

"The Power of the Dog," a film that, like the novel, takes its name from a Psalm. The full line goes: "Deliver my soul from the sword, my darling from the power of the dog." Dogs, seen in Biblical times as unclean scavengers, were a kind of stand-in for the devil. But whose soul is in jeopardy in "The Power of the Dog"?

It would seem very much that Rose Gordon (Kirsten Dunst, brilliant) is the one in the crosshairs. She's a widow running a boarding house whom George falls for and quickly marries. (Their romance, which Campion allows one sweeping shot of as they embrace with a cathedral of mountain peaks all around, has a special

sweetness in that it's a real-life one, too.) When George brings her home, Phil isn't shy about his unhappiness in the intrusion of a woman into his manly realm. Though his brother has long ago learned to avoid or ignore Phil's fearsome glare, Rose begins to wilt under the pressure and starts drinking heavily. A psychodrama sets in, only where the movie goes from here isn't as obvious as you might think.

The three's-a-crowd tension doesn't subside, but Campion's film steadily gravitates to a fourth character: Rose's teenage son, Peter (Kodi Smit-McPhee). He comes to the ranch only in the movie's second act, introducing an entirely different, maybe modern presence to the drama. Peter is a slender beanpole who dresses in black and white and — gasp — sneakers, and crafts fragile flowers out of paper. Phil, who conceals his homosexuality, takes Peter under his wing, an almost unfathomable development poised somewhere between horror (that Phil's hard lessons will only set up the seemingly delicate Peter for slaughter) and tenderness. Cumberbatch, so alive to his character's contradictions, and Smit-McPhee, with a bracingly singular demeanor and a sly strength, artfully play both possibilities. □

Associated Press



Helen Mirren attends the LA premiere of "Dumbo" in Los Angeles on March 11, 2019. The Screen Actors Guild has selected Mirren as their 57th Life Achievement Award recipient. Associated Press

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

The Screen Actors Guild has selected Dame Helen

## Helen Mirren to get actors' guild Life Achievement Award

Mirren as their 57th Life Achievement Award Recipient, the union said Thursday.

The 76-year-old English stage and screen actor has credits spanning over 50 years and has played everything from a gangster's girlfriend in "The Long Good Friday" to Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen." Mirren will be adding this latest honor to a robust collection of awards including an Oscar, a Tony, and multiple SAG, Emmy

and BAFTA Awards.

"I am honored to have been chosen to receive the SAG Life Achievement Award," Mirren said in a statement. "Since I was a young actor starting out, I have always been inspired by and learned from American screen acting, so this award is particularly meaningful for me."

With 13 SAG Awards nominations and five wins, Mirren is also the most decorated SAG Life Achievement recipient, the union

said. "Dame Helen Mirren is quite simply a brilliant and luminous talent," said SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher, in a statement. "She has set the bar very high for all actors and, in role after role, she exceeds even her own extraordinary performances. I've always felt a kinship with Helen. She's the Queen of England and I'm the Queen of Queens. She won an Oscar and I'm left-hander of the year. It's uncanny." □

# Comfortable Berríos skips free agency to stay with Blue Jays

By IAN HARISON

Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — Two months with the Toronto Blue Jays was enough to make José Berríos change his mind about waiting one more year to reach free agency.

Berríos finalized a \$131 million, seven-year deal to stay with the Blue Jays on Thursday, passing up the opportunity to become a free agent next offseason.

A two-time All Star, the 27-year-old right-hander said his decision was simplified by getting a brief experience of life in Toronto after the Blue Jays acquired him from Minnesota on July 30.

"That was enough to make this decision because of the way they treated me, the nice welcome they gave me," Berríos said. "The way

I spent my last two months of the season here made it more easy and comfortable to make this decision." He gets a \$5 million signing bonus, half payable on Jan. 31 and the rest on April 30. Berríos receives salaries of \$10 million next season, \$15 million in 2023, \$17 million in 2024, \$18 million each in 2025 and '26, and \$24 million both in 2027 and '28.

Berríos can opt out after the 2026 season to become a free agent, giving up \$48 million over the final two seasons.



**José Berríos, right, speaks during a press conference announcing his seven-year extension with the Toronto Blue Jays, alongside Ross Atkins, executive vice president of baseball operations and general manager at Rogers Centre in Toronto, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.**

He has up to \$5 million in escalators for 2027 and '28 that he can earn in 2025 and '26: \$1 million each for 300 and 350 innings combined and \$500,000 apiece for 375 and 400. He also would earn \$2 million for a Cy Young Award in each of those years, \$1.5 million for second through fifth in the voting and \$750,000 for sixth through 10th.

Berríos went 5-4 with a 3.58 ERA in 12 starts with Toronto, finishing 12-9 with a 3.52 ERA. The Blue Jays won 91 games, finishing one victory shy of a tie for a wild card

berth in the competitive AL East. An invigorated Berríos made it clear he didn't want to fall short again in 2022.

"I can promise we're going to do a lot of good things for the city," he said. "We're going to have a lot of fun."

Berríos struck out a career-high 204 batters over 192 innings in 2021. He is 60-47 with a 4.04 ERA in six big league seasons.

Berríos said his wife visited him in Toronto after he was traded last summer, but said his three kids hadn't

visited their new home until the deal was reached.

"They love the city," he said. "They ask me every day if we're going to play tonight."

Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins said Berríos has "one of the best reputations in baseball," adding the contract represents "a very big moment for this organization."

"Beyond that talent and that competitiveness and execution that you see on the field is one of the best human beings in the game," Atkins said of Ber-

rios. "That is extremely powerful for this organization, what that means for players who will be his teammates today and in the future."

Atkins said the Blue Jays started laying the groundwork for discussions on a new contract before the end of the regular season.

"When the season ended, it was one of the first phone calls we made," Atkins said. Berríos, who is from Puerto Rico, was taken 32nd overall by the Twins in the 2012 amateur draft. He has never been on the injured list in his six-year career, making 32 starts in each of the past three full seasons.

Atkins praised Berríos for being "as consistent as any professional athlete in the world."

"The dependability, the reliability of someone like José is exceptionally powerful," Atkins said. "We obviously value that a great deal."

This is the third \$100 million-plus deal in Blue Jays history and the second in as many winters — Toronto signed outfielder George Springer to a \$150 million, six-year contract last offseason.

Still, Atkins insisted that signing Berríos would not prevent Toronto from pursuing other free agents, including left-hander Robbie Ray, who won the AL Cy Young Award with the Blue Jays this season, and slugging infielder Marcus Semien. □

Associated Press

# Muguruza wins WTA Finals for first time, beating Kontaveit

By CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

AP Sports Writer

**GUADALAJARA, Mexico**

**(AP)** — Garbiñe Muguruza's trip to Mexico started last week with a taste of tequila. After winning the WTA Finals on Wednesday, it ended the same way.

Muguruza defeated Anett Kontaveit 6-3, 7-5 in the final for her first title at the WTA's elite, season-ending championships.

She became the oldest champion at 28 since Serena Williams in 2014, and finishes the season at No. 3 in the rankings, her best performance since 2017,

when she was No. 1.

Before the tournament, Muguruza took a 37-mile (60-kilometer) ride to Tequila, a small town outside of Guadalajara where the popular spirit is produced.

"I went to the town, did a tasting. I need to do this before because when I win ..." Muguruza said. "We're (now) going to have some tequila, have fun, lose all the tension we've been having and holding. I think the whole team deserves it."

Muguruza became the first Spaniard to win the WTA Finals. The first person she celebrated with was

coach Conchita Martinez. The new champion won back-to-back titles in Monterrey in northern Mexico in 2018 and 2019, and her past successes drove her to qualify for the WTA Finals.

"The whole year with my team I was saying to them, 'It's in Mexico, we have to make it, c'mon.' It was my biggest motivation," Muguruza said.

All week, she was backed by the locals at Estadio Akron, and reciprocated by wearing a Mexico soccer jersey for her last two matches.

"My manager, Oliver, he



**Garbiñe Muguruza, of Spain, holds the trophy during an awarding ceremony after defeating Anett Kontaveit, of Estonia, at the final match of the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Guadalajara, Mexico, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.**

Associated Press

was like, 'You know what, for the first time Garbiñe, you're really using the crowd, really getting that

energy and using it on the court. You should do that more often,' Muguruza said. □

# Lee6 takes lead at Tiburon as Korda gets start she wanted

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

**NAPLES, Fla. (AP)** — On a course she didn't expect, Nelly Korda delivered the round she needed with a 6-under 66 that left her two shots out of the lead Thursday and gave her a good start toward winning LPGA Tour player of the year. The \$1.5 million prize for winning the CME Group Tour Championship is in range, too.

Former U.S. Women's Open champion Jeongeun Lee6 didn't make a birdie on rain-softened Tiburon Golf Club until the sixth hole, and then she didn't stop. She finished with three straight birdies for an 8-under 64.

Lee6 had a one-shot lead over four players, including past Tiburon winner Sei Young Kim. Scoring was so low that 18 players were at 67 or better.

The 60 players who qualified for the season finale have the same chance to win the \$1.5 million prize, the largest in women's golf, regardless of their standing in the Race to CME Globe. The more compelling race is the points-based award for LPGA player of the year, which is down to Korda and Jin Young Ko, each with four victories. Korda has a 10-point lead, meaning Ko would have to be runner-up to have a chance.

The South Korean star has some catching up to do after a 69 left her in a tie for



Nelly Korda takes a swing on the 18th hole during the first round of the CME Group Tour Championship LPGA golf tournament in Naples, Fla., Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

25th, especially with Korda looking as sharp as she has for so much of the year.

"I gave myself some good looks inside 10 feet," Korda said. "Two 'oopsies' with three-putts, but I think I hit the majority of the greens and gave myself some really good looks. ... Hopefully, I can carry it into the next three days."

Hannah Green of Australia, who already picked up \$1 million this week for winning the Aon Risk-Reward Challenge bonus program, took a step toward even more cash by joining Korda in the group at 66, along with U.S. Women's Open champion Yuka Saso.

Ko and Korda played in the final group, based on Race to CME Globe standings, and the South Korean star got off to a slow start. Her wedge to a back pin on the par-5 opening hole was too strong and went over the back, she putted up the slope and badly missed a 4-foot par putt. She rallied with two birdies on her last three holes.

Korda also started somewhat slowly considering the conditions, opening with a 7-foot birdie putt on the par 5 and then settling for medium-length chances even with short irons.

By then, several players already were at 5 under. That

didn't surprise Korda given the nature of the course. The players dodged the worst of the weather, but Korda couldn't help but notice a number of tees moved forward based on the forecast.

"I was pretty surprised seeing a lot of tee boxes up," Korda said. "I would love to know how far we were playing it today because I think they were anticipating a lot of rain. All of us were. But it was playing pretty short, and I think a lot of the girls could have short clubs in and be more aggressive on these greens."

She finally joined in with birdies with a shot into 7

feet for birdie on No. 9, and then a wedge to 4 feet pin-high on No. 10 and another wedge to 8 feet behind the hole on the 11th.

But then, it was like for everyone.

Mina Harigae chipped in for eagle on the par-5 17th and then nearly made a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth toward the end of her round. She was in the group at 65, along with Celine Boutier and Jennifer Kupcho. Only five of the 60 players at Tiburon shot over par. Korda doesn't get distracted by much, and that includes a chance to be player of the year. She knows what's at stake. She was reminded again playing alongside Ko. And then she just went about her business, as always.

"I'm sure you guys are tired of hearing it, but I honestly don't think about it. When I say it, I honestly try not to think about it," she said. "I don't really look at the rankings like that. If you want to know my honest opinion, I look at the money list and that's all I look at."

Otherwise, everything is in front of her.

"We're here. Everyone has a chance to win \$1.5 million. Everyone is playing good golf," Korda said. "You need everything to be on your side to win, so I just tee it up and I just try to take it one shot at a time. As boring as it sounds, I like that game plan." □



Visitors take photos of a statue of figure skaters with the Olympic rings at a park near the headquarters of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) in Beijing, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

## Biden: U.S. may not send top dignitaries to Beijing Olympics

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden said Thursday that the United States was weighing a diplomatic boycott of next year's Winter Olympics in Beijing over China's human rights abuses, a move that would keep American dignitaries, but not athletes, from the games.

Speaking to reporters as he hosted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the Oval Office, Biden said backing a boycott of the Olympics in February is "something we're consid-

ering." The U.S. and other nations traditionally send high-level delegations to each Olympics.

First lady Jill Biden led the American contingent to the Summer Olympics in Tokyo this year and second gentleman Doug Emhoff led a delegation to the Paralympic Games. International advocacy groups and some members of Congress have called for a symbolic U.S. boycott of the games in Beijing over China's treat-

ment of Uyghurs and its crackdown on freedoms in Hong Kong.

The participation of American athletes would be unaffected by the boycott. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said there was no timeline for a decision by the president on whether to go through with a possible boycott. The White House has said the Olympics did not come up on Monday when Biden met virtually with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. □